

Gifted/Talented Questions for Charter School Petitions

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<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic-services/gifted-talented/>

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- **What does Idaho Law say about G/T education?**

During the 1993 legislative session, Idaho's gifted and talented mandate was approved. The G/T mandate requires all districts in Idaho to identify and serve G/T children between the ages of 5 and 18 in five talent areas:



"She's a gifted child."

Each public school district is responsible for and shall provide for the special instructional needs of gifted/talented children enrolled therein. Public school districts in the state shall provide instruction and training for children between the ages of five (5) years and eighteen (18) years who are gifted/talented as defined in this chapter and by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall, through its department of education, determine eligibility criteria and assist school districts in developing a variety of flexible approaches for instruction and training that may include administrative accommodations, curriculum modifications and special programs (Idaho Code 33-2003).

To comply with Idaho Code, districts need to identify students in the five talent areas and provide services for all identified G/T students between the ages of 5 and 18. Idaho Code 33-2003 also requires districts to submit on December 1 of each year the enrollment count of all G/T students being served by the district.

- **Are your G/T instructors highly qualified?**

In Idaho, gifted/talented education is mandated by state law. Each district must submit a G/T District Plan every three years, stating how the district will identify and serve the G/T students in their district. If a teacher is providing direct services to G/T students, e.g. gifted class, the teacher must have an endorsement, which is outlined on the link below:

Idaho Gifted and Talented Endorsement Guidelines

<http://www.itag-sage.org/EndorsementOverview.pdf>

- **What is needed in the G/T District Plan?**

- ✓ The G/T district plan outlines the following six items:
- ✓ Philosophy Statement
- ✓ Definition of Giftedness
- ✓ Program Goals
- ✓ Program Options
- ✓ Identification Procedures

In the Charter School Petition, please write an actual G/T plan. It is not sufficient merely to state that a program will be established and the law will be followed. In part, the petition is clarified by stating exactly how a program, such as G/T, will be developed uniquely, according to the proposed charter. If the petition does not include an actual G/T plan, it will be marked as “fails to achieve” in this area.

- **What areas should a G/T plan serve?**

- ✓ Intellectual
- ✓ Creative
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Visual and Performing Arts
- ✓ Specific Academic

Identify how various types of G/T students will be served, and how your charter specifically meets the needs of these children. Relying on one test or limited set of considerations will miss significant populations. Use your charter philosophy to outline how all five areas of giftedness/talent are addressed, and why your charter can uniquely serve this population.

- **How do I access information or resources on Gifted/Talented education?**

The G/T website includes a variety of links, resources, and materials. Please visit this site in planning your G/T program:

http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/

Look for the following information on the SDE G/T site:

- ✓ Announcements
- ✓ Mandate/Mission Statement—Idaho Code and the law
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Competitions
- ✓ Manuals
- ✓ Resource links to other sites

Another major site to be kept in mind is the Idaho Talented and Gifted site:

<http://www.itag-sage.org/>

Also consult the national organization: Council for Exceptional Children

<http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>

These and other links are located on the SDE G/T webpage

- **What if our charter school teaches all children with concepts of giftedness in mind?**

Most principles of G/T can be applied with effectiveness to the entire population. However, the defining concept of a G/T program is that the district has identified unique qualities in a population that must be served under the areas outlined above. Defining a G/T population requires thinking through what the district outlines as your definition for G/T. Guidelines for this determination may be found at:

- **What is the Idaho Code definition of gifted and talented?**

“Gifted and talented children” mean those students who are identified as possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of high performing capabilities in intellectual, creative, specific academic or leadership areas, or ability in the performing or visual arts and who require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop such capabilities (Idaho Code 33-2001).

- **What are other useful definitions of G/T we may use as a guideline for developing our G/T program?**

National Society for Gifted and Talented

<http://www.nsgt.org/articles/index.asp>

National Association for Gifted Children

<http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=574>

Rhode Island Advocates for Gifted Education

<http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx? Id =574>

EGS102-TS



"Mr. Wickers called me 'gifted' in front of the whole class. I'm ruined."